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The assignment reads: “This will be roughly two pages and will act as a sort of time capsule”. In other words I will have to describe my Junior year in two pages. However, this is probably one of the toughest assignments I have tackled. My Junior year has hands-down been my most memorable and life changing year of my life. This year had peaks and valleys, each of which I learned something new. My personality and my whole view of the world had changed. How ever corny that may seem, it really did happen. I guess this is a good place to start my year in two pages. Walking into Junior year, I could describe myself as self-contained, socially awkward teenager. However harsh it may sound it was true, I had select friends, and I barely socialized out of that group. By no means was I a social outcast, I just preferred to keep to myself, and this is not a bad thing, but I had grown tired of being alone. Throughout my junior year I have reconnected with many old friends and forged new memories that will not be forgotten and also lost close ones. Like that one time when I went to Washington D.C. with my newly made friends. A this trip the first of my character changed was evident. The story goes, we were at the convention center with our stomachs empty. We saw that the prices at the center were inflated and we wanted to try something new. However, we were given specific instructions to not leave the center. One of my friends notified me that D.C. had a famous burger shop. My other friends were on board with the idea of leaving the center and going to get food. However I was reluctant, but soon enough I hesitantly agreed. Now at first it may seem like I was just following peer pressure but I really wasn’t. I saw this potential rule breaking as a new experience. Anyways, we leave the center, and I soon find out that this burger place we were planning to go to was half way across D.C. I started to regret my decision. We next decided to take the subways to get there, however being first timers using the subway system we were very lost. However thankfully the citizens of D.C. were kind enough to help us, but to get there

help I had to get out of my comfort zone and actually socialize to other and ask. Skipping forward to our arrival at Good Stuff Eatery, we realized that we only had thirty minutes to order our food and eat it and get back to the center for our check in with the mentors. We quickly ordered our food and sat down and ate it. I can't give the food justice by describing it with words, for you to experience the greatness you have to try it yourself. Anyways, we now realized that we wasted fifteen minutes eating with only fifteen left for a twenty minute ride back. The whole way back my heart was pounding, but while filled with adrenaline I looked around to see my friends, and I suddenly was so grateful that I made the choice to go. In the end, we were five minutes late, but with a lame excuse made up on the spot we were fine and no one found out anything (except for you, and let's keep it that way). This one of the first times I broke the rules, and I thought I had taken a turn for the worst. However my experience was not from breaking a simple rule, it was my willingness to try something new, something I wouldn't have dared to try a year ago. From my previous years, I have become much more open-minded, and willing to listen to others and sustain a meaningful conversation. Not only has it evolved me into a better person, it also made me happier. Now the word happy usually has a weak sense of joy with it, but I feel like it is a genuine word that describes my experiences. However it was not always like this, as mentioned before I had to go through valleys to enjoy the peaks. My Junior year was filled with academic work, and personal struggles, both of which I fought through and emerged victorious. Aside from growing emotionally, I have grown academically. Due to my massive load of A.P. Classes (yes I had to mention these dreaded things, which doesn't even determine intelligence) and my independent studies of various subjects, I have learned to be more organized in my work, and how to manage my time much more efficiently. I was always motivated by the desire to be the best, and

support from my newly acquainted friends and my lovely family. Well there I did it, my year in two pages. (Oh crap, it spilled onto the third page, I guess you really can't be perfect).